

**WILLIAMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

**PARENT COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**7.00pm on Monday 1st October 2012**

**Present:**

Allan Boyd	Karen Hussain
Cress Maher	Jatinder Sumal
Stuart Taylor	Lesley Yeates
Cllr Ralph Robertson	Cllr Alan Lafferty
Colin Smith	Roddy Wilson
Jerry Eve (Chaplain)	Susan Begg
David Mowat	Cllr Gordon McCaskill
Brian Stokes	Liz Burton-King
John Overdijking	Corinne Durand-Watson (Vice-Chair)
Bobby Caldwell (Chair)	

**In Attendance:** John Fitzpatrick (Headteacher) and Helen Fulton (Teacher)

**1 Introduction**

**2 Apologies**

Deborah Irvine	Andrew Shephard
Moira Young	Stuart Miller
Ailsa Crum	Cllr Mary Montague

**3 Minutes of and points arising from the previous meeting**

Minutes were accepted. Point arising not covered elsewhere - school uniform.

RR had provided information relating to the tender process, Man's World was the only bidder for the tender and after the appropriate consideration, was awarded the contract. Information concerning pricing was provided, and the PC will ensure this is made available. Lesley Armstrong, Chair of the PTA, is due to meet with the owner of Man's World shortly and will feedback the outcome of the meeting.

## 4 Communications update

A brief update on the progress of communications initiatives so far:

### i) Business cards

To recap - business cards bearing details of the Parent Council on one side and the PTA on the other were printed over the summer. Unfortunately, the PTA had to amend its website address - it is now <http://www.williamwood-pta.org.uk/>. - there is a link from the Home page of the school website.

The cards were sent out in the annual data check to all Williamwood parents, with a covering letter conveying information about the PC and the project relating to work experience (currently called Added Value project until we think of a better name!)

Cards will also be distributed at various parents' events throughout the school year which PC members will attend.

### ii) PC website

The PC pages (or mini-site) can be found by clicking on the appropriate tab on the home page. The task now is to ensure that the PC pages are sufficiently well populated with useful information including details of the PC membership and the work the PC is doing.

It was agreed that a full list of all PC members would be posted as well as dates of joining the PC.

**Action** - All PC members to look in detail at the PC pages and feed back all suggestions / amendments / new information to BC by end of October.

Thanks again to Robert Hendry for all of his help in constructing the PC pages.

## 5 Adding value to careers, training & work experience - Allan Boyd

(see full notes of the subgroup meeting on the PC webpages)

Following a report back to the PC of the subgroup, the main discussion concerned the priority areas where the school is seeking help :-

- i) finding work experience placements for young people of 16 years of age
- ii) support pupils seeking access to high-value university courses

- Action -**
- i) to create a short descriptive paragraph of what the PC is looking for when discussing this project with potential placement providers (arrange a meeting with Mr Inglis to that effect)
  - ii) for all PC members to identify one potential provider and discuss the project (once we have agreed i) above)

There is the opportunity of inviting Mr Hannah and Ms Gibson to the next PC meeting to discuss other aspects of the project.

## **6 Headteacher's Report - John Fitzpatrick**

**Malawi** - group returned safely, very successful visit, project running for past 4 years, review to be conducted later in October.

**S1 Information evening** - engaged well with parents.

**Discos** - don't seem to be as popular as in recent years, certainly in S1 where approx 110 attended, however the S5 & S6 Hallowe'en disco is extremely popular.

**SQA Appeals** - appeal results have come back, but this system will only be in place for one more year, thereafter a new system will be in place.

**Letters** - have been sent to all S3 pupils in Scotland, direct communication from Mike Russell, Education Secretary, regarding change to new qualifications.

**Strathclyde Business School** - WHS is one of only two schools in Scotland to enter a pilot partnership with SBS where graduate students will work on 'ethical business' projects with pupils in the BICT dept.

**Mathematics review** - major review of mathematics, literacy and numeracy across ERC with JF as part of review group, focussing on P4 - S2, comprising school visits, online surveys and focus groups. In short, fair but could do better.

**Careers evening** - on Tuesday 30th October, preparation well underway, over 800 pupils and parents expected that evening, Emma Hobson is organising it this year.

**Awards event** - for the senior school, held on Tuesday 13th September and a great success, with good feedback from parents. There are three award ceremonies in total including the lower school and Duke of Edinburgh.

**Study Skills event** - annual event to be held on Tuesday 2nd Oct - a bit of a communications experiment this year, notifying parents by text and inviting them to check full details on the school website!

**Q** - as to whether awards concentrate on academic achievement at expense of other types of attainment or success.

**A** - JF pointed out that DoE has nothing to do with academic achievement and cited the many awards given for achievement in sport or arts, whilst in the lower school the awards are for endeavour.

## **7 Staff Report - Helen Fulton**

i) the school's first Jazz Festival takes place on Thursday 4th October - full details on website - all welcome

ii) the school has been awarded £6,000 from the Awards For All programme to establish an Eco-garden, thanks to the efforts of Tom Smart (teacher). The money represents 75% of the total project cost and any support in-kind in terms of materials, or volunteers etc. would be gratefully received - more details as the work progresses. The actual building work will be undertaken by an external company.

(**NB** - should this perhaps become a school blog?)

## **8 Parent Council Grant 2012 / 2013**

Every PC is allocated a sum of money on an annual basis to help support the work of the PC - in WHS PC case this is in the region of £900. Last year donations were made to the school's Charity Week and the school uniform fund.

The PC should consider the uses the grant should be put to this year.

One suggestion is to host an event allied to the Added Value project (as described in 5 above).

Another suggestion might be to consider sponsoring an award of some kind - the PTA do this as part of the awards ceremonies.

Or possibly to consider a bursary of some kind?

The general view was that any expenditure should clearly support the PC's objectives for the year - and in this case - the Added Value project.

It was agreed that this should become a regular item on the agenda.

## 9 Preparation for AGM

The AGM of the PC is arranged for Monday 19th November 2012 at 7pm. The purpose is to report on the work of the PC over the past year, elect the new office bearers, confirm membership, and present an outline of possible activity for the new PC during the next year.

**Action** - BC will prepare a draft report and circulate it to the PC by mid October. Feedback, comments, amendments back to BC by end October with the final report posted on the school website by the beginning of November ensuring plenty of notice prior to the AGM.

We also need to ensure that we publicise the report and the AGM itself on the school website and using Twitter.

## 10 AOCB

i) ERC Parent Chairs meeting - SOA Engagement event - this will be discussed at the ERC Parent Chairs meeting on Tuesday 2nd Oct - not entirely clear what it is as there was little information provided in advance - BC will feedback at the next meeting.

ii) Equalities Forum - next meeting scheduled for Thursday 10th January 2013 in Braidbar PS, Giffnock at 6pm - a note on the previous meeting will be circulated.

## Dates of future meetings and events representation

There is a need for volunteers to represent the PC at each of the forthcoming events at which the new business cards will be able to be distributed to parents attending:

Tuesday 30 Oct	Careers' evening - <b>AB (CM &amp; CDW tbc)</b>
Thursday 22 Nov	Parents' evening for S5/S6 - <b>RW</b>
Thursday 06 Dec	S2 information evening (Nat 4 and Nat 5) - <b>CM / LBK /SB</b>

Future meetings:	19th November 2012 (AGM)
	14th January 2013
	4th March 2013
	15th April 2013
	10th June 2013

